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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/754,383	01/08/2004	Takeshi Takachi	SIC-02-008-1	9188

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DELAND LAW OFFICE
P.O. BOX 69
KLAMATH RIVER, CA 96050-0069

EXAMINER

LUONG, VINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/754,383

Applicant(s)

TAKACHI, TAKESHI

Examiner

Vinh T Luong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/22/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25-50 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


Vinh T. Luong
Primary Examiner

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

1. Applicant's election of species of Figs. 10-11G in the reply filed on July 22, 2004 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

2. No claim is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 22, 2004.

3. The drawings are objected to because:

(a) The drawings are inconsistent with the specification. For example, paragraphs [0033] and [0034] of the specification describes "a tubular body 300 with radially outwardly extending locking projections 304 for engaging the side wall 42 of housing 38" in Fig. 10, however, Fig. 10 does not show the referential numeral "38"; and

(b) Each part of the invention, such as, "second position setting member," "a third coupling member" and "a fourth coupling member," *etc.* in paragraphs [0005] and [0033]-[0039] of the specification and claims 25-50 should be designated by a referential numeral or character.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the

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drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) *must* be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

(a) The disclosure must not use different referential numerals to indicate the same thing or *vice versa*. For example, see the recitation "the first ratchet tooth surfaces *138a'* continue to press against first ratchet tooth surfaces *134a*" (emphasis added) in paragraph [0037] of the specification;

(b) Each part of the invention, such as, "a second position setting member," "a third coupling member" and "a fourth coupling member" in paragraphs [0005] and [0033]-[0039] of the specification and claims 25-50 should be designated by a referential numeral or character; and

(c) The specification is inconsistent with the drawings. For example, paragraphs [0033] and [0034] of the specification describes "a tubular body 300 with radially outwardly extending locking projections 304 for engaging the side wall 42 of housing 38" in Fig. 10, however, Fig. 10 does not show the referential numeral "38."

Appropriate correction is required.

5. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, such as, "a *second* position setting member," "a *first* position setting

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member,” and “*second* position setting member” in claims 25-50. Applicant is respectfully urged to use the same terminology and/or numerical order in the specification and the claims. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction is required.

6. Claims 25-50 are objected to because of the following informalities:

(a) The claims contain grammatical or typographical errors. For example, the recitation “second position setting member” in line 11 of claim 25 should have been “a second position setting member”; and

(b) No antecedent basis is seen for the term, such as, “the first projection” in claim 37.

Appropriate correction is required.

7. Claims 25-50 are allowed.

8. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Takeshi'715 (Applicant's corresponding European Patent Application, see claims 19-41 and 45), Takeshi'174 (Figs. 3-5), Patterson'733 (ratchet 492 in Figs. 59-68), Huang et al. (Fig. 3), Hanatani'894 (Fig. 2), and Hanatani'844 (Fig. 5).

10. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters: see the objections above. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vinh T. Luong whose telephone number is 703-308-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on 703-308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Luong

September 14, 2004



Vinh T. Luong
Primary Examiner